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OA/ID Number: 24237

FolderID:

Folder Title:

[Scrapbook of Success - Chicago, East St. Louis, & Two Rivers] [3]

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**AmeriCorps
in Illinois**

*Getting Things Done
for America*



December 19, 1994

421 Jersey
Quincy, Illinois 62301
(217) 222-4996

Dear Mr. McCartney:

The YWCA of Quincy would like to thank you so very much for your Ameri Corps program and all the fine work they have done for us.

Your crew of workers has been very busy scraping and painting the inside of the YWCA. They have painted the gymnasium, stairway leading up to the gym, the hallway, garden room and wall-papered the main-floor bathroom. Excellent work by very nice people.

We have also scheduled them to finish painting the downstairs weight room, men's locker room and small dining room.

This Spring, we have alot of outside work that needs to be done, also.

Again, thank you and Uptown Quincy for having this program. Without you, we would have been hard pressed to get these projects done, both physically and financially.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna Mayenzet'.

Donna Mayenzet, President
Board of Directors
YWCA of Quincy



Uptown Quincy Incorporated

110 North 6th • Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone 217/228-8696 • Fax 217/228-8698

February 1, 1995

Bill McCartney
Two Rivers Resource Conservation
and Development Corporation
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Dear Bill:

Before you decide I'm completing lacking in manners, I want to "officially" thank you for the assistance you've offered through the AmeriCorps program.

Susie, Starr, Darlene, Chad and Mike have been a tremendous help to us! Without them it would have been nearly impossible for me to get this survey completed. They are doing a great job and coming back with not only statistical data but comments which we need. My next challenge is to follow up on this. You can be sure we'll do our best to let our members and the public know what we've learned and what we hope we can accomplish.

I have enclosed copies of several items for you.

The first, on the yellow paper, is a survey which a student intern conducted in November/December 1994. This is the one Susie tallied and summarized the final data. A copy of what the Quincy Herald-Whig printed and what I submitted in the Quincy Merchant are attached.

The second set of materials includes articles from the Quincy Herald-Whig and the Quincy Merchant as well as a copy of the survey which Starr, Darlene, Chad and Mike are conducting. Susie is compiling the information as they turn it in each day.

In addition to the newspaper articles, most of the radio and television stations also mentioned these surveys.

Again Bill, I'm extremely grateful for the help being offered!

Sincerely,

Jill Arnold Blickhan
Executive Director

Enclosures

Village of Brussels

Sarah A. Kinder, Mayor
P.O. Box 84
Brussels, IL 62013

Raymond Menke, Clerk
P.O. Box 43
Brussels, IL 62013

April 3, 1995

Mr. Bill McCartney
Two Rivers RC & D
110 East Fayette
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Dear Mr. McCartney,

I would like to express my appreciation for the presentation about AmeriCorps given to the board by Phillip Beemer and Darlene Ivarson. After some discussion we felt that a Community Highlights Profile would be beneficial to help the village promote tourism. We also have an historic jail which needs painting and a sign indicating its historic nature. These are two projects that the AmeriCorps group could help us with.

Please advise me as to further information necessary to participate in your program.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Kinder
Sarah A. Kinder
Mayor

March 21, 1995

Dear Bill

Thank you for lining
up volunteers for the
blocks at West Pike
School.

Our client's trailer
will be set this week.

Relay the positive feeling
to your workers - this is
a "Hand Up" for the client.

Again Thanks.

Sincerely,
Yours in Service
Gillian B Bowen



Uptown Quincy Incorporated

110 North 6th • Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone 217/228-8696 • Fax 217/228-8698

March 31, 1995

Bill McCartney
Two Rivers Resource Conservation
and Development Corporation
110 East Fayette
Pittsfield, IL 62363

Dear Bill:

I want to thank you once again for the assistance provided Uptown Quincy, Inc. through the AmeriCorps program.

Starr, Darlene, Chad and Mike were a tremendous help conducting our door-to-door survey project! They completed nearly 350 surveys gathering information and opinions about parking and one-way street conversions. They've also completed structural surveys and helped provide additional information for our maps. Starr also did quite a bit of work tabulating information we need for our Special Service Area assessment.

Susie has also been a godsend for us! She's done any number of secretarial tasks asked. In addition, she's compiled all the information collected by the survey team, tabulated responses and doublechecked information.

Again Bill, I'm extremely grateful for their work! They've enabled us to provide factual information for me to use in my work with revitalization and economic development and other issues facing our central business district and community.

I've heard equally glowing reports on the work done by the teams at the YWCA and WCU! Both organizations are grateful for the assistance!

Sincerely,

Jill Arnold Blickhan
Executive Director

Copies: Starr McDaniles
 Darlene Ivarson
 Mike Miller
 Chad Denison
 Susie Ruble

April 5, 1995

U.S.D.A. AmeriCorps
William McCartney-Director
110 E Fayette
Pittsfield Il 62363

Dear Mr. McCartney,

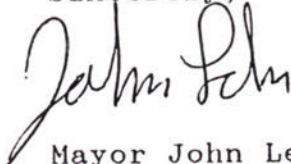
We appreciated your Americorps representatives attending our Village Board meeting the evening of April 3, 1995. Their presentation was interesting and informative.

The Village of Hull is in need of having identifying numbers assigned to each business and residence within the Village limits. The village trustees would like to request the help of your Americorps program in completing this task.

Please contact Mayor John Lehr at 217 224-5311 or Judy Smith at 217 432-5471 with any questions you might have regarding this project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Lehr".

Mayor John Lehr

VILLAGE OF BROWNING
P.O. BOX 169
BROWNING, IL. 62624

DATE: APRIL 6, 1995

TO: MR. BILL McCARTNEY

RE: AMERICORPS

FROM: BURL H. BOYD, VILLAGE PRESIDENT

DARLENE IVARSON AND STARR McDANILES GAVE A PRESENTATION AT OUR APRIL 4th BOARD MEETING AND THE BOARD HAS AGREED TO TAKE THEM UP ON THEIR OFFER. THE PRESENTATION WAS VERY WELL ADDRESSED AND THE TWO LADIES CONDUCTED THEMSELVES VERY PROFESSIONALLY AND FRIENDLY. THEY SPOKE VERY POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR WORKING ABILITIES AND ABOUT THE PROGRAM THEY ARE WORKING UNDER.

THE BOARD AND MYSELF LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE PROGRAM AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME ANYTIME. MY HOME NUMBER IS 217-323-2796.

THANKS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Burl H. Boyd".

Village of Pearl
Pearl, IL 62361

June 21, 1995

Dear Bill,

We wish to thank you for sending the AmeriCorps Environmental Team to Pearl. We appreciate that they cut brush out of the main drainage ditch that run through the village and off the levee.

They were polite and friendly, even when cutting brush in hot weather. They did a very good job and are very hard working. It has been a pleasure to have Susie, Larry, LeeAnn, Gary, Joe and Rachel. For without their help I don't know how we would have it done.

Yours Truly,

Village President
Keith Danolos
Pearl Fire Chief
Jack P. M. Danolos

June 27, 1995

Mr. Bill McCartney,
110 E. Fayette St.,
Pittsfield, Il.

Dear Sir:

At the June 13 meeting of the Village Board of Payson, it was agreed that Americorp workers should proceed with publishing a brochure concerning the Village of Payson.

We were impressed with their work on other projects similar in nature, and wish to advertise the advantages and prospects Payson has to offer to anyone searching for a commendable location for businesses or any other project which could be of mutual value to both the interested party (ies) and the Village of Payson.

We feel we have assets here that could be developed to be of benefit to all concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Charles McCallister, President

Clerk

Village Board

Village of Nebo

P.O. Box 237A
Nebo, IL 62355



July 12, 1995

Two Rivers RC&D
Bill McCartney
Pittsfield, Illinois

IN REGARDS: USDA AMERICORPS

The Village Board would like to express to you and the workers of Americorps how much we appreciate the help they gave our community.

The profile they did on our community was excellent and we intend to pass out copies on Vin Fiz Day and during the Color Tour.

The days the workers spent in Nebo doing anything they were asked to do and doing the job well not only saved our Village a lot of money it also improved the looks of our Village and we have received many compliments.

They were respectful of the property they were on and acted in a respectful manner.

We were very grateful for the time and energy they gave our community and we hope the program can be continued to help Villages such as ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Kenneth P. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Village President
Village Board Trustees



July 17, 1995

Bill McCartney
Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development
110 E. Fayette St.
Pittsfield, IL 62363

RE: Note of appreciation for services provided by Americorps volunteers

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the Adams County Highway Department, the Adams County 9-1-1 Department, Klingner & Associates and Poepping, Stone, Bach and Associates, I would like to express our thanks to you and your Americorps volunteers for assisting Adams County with the field verification portion of our countywide addressing project. We have found your people to be enthusiastic and dedicated to completing the tasks assigned. They were also able to make adjustments while in the field to discrepancies in some of the maps provided them. As project manager for the countywide addressing initiative, I soon learned to feel confident that final field information returned to our office was well documented with very few errors or inconsistencies.

Your volunteers also helped fill a manpower gap faced in the project. 1995 has been a very busy year for county, city and local engineering staffs and we would have been hard pressed to find enough people to complete field verification on schedule. Your offer of volunteers was extremely timely and was exactly what the county needed to bridge our manpower gap.

From our standpoint, we would like to see the Americorps program continued, if possible. Americorps is an excellent win-win type of program that provides volunteers with valuable practical experience and college credits while at the same time providing valuable benefits to local communities. We'd like to thank you again for your service and want you to know we have really appreciated our partnership with your Americorps team.

Very truly yours,

KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Mark Warren, Geographic Information Specialist

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CC: Dick Klusmeyer, Adams County Engineer
Cathy Brogdon, Adams County 9-1-1 Coordinator
Pat Poepping and Tom Hickman, PSBA

KLINGNER
ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Consulting Engineers

□ 613 Broadway, Quincy, Illinois 62301

PSBA

POEPPING, STONE, BACH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

□ 501 Broadway, Quincy, Illinois 62301



July 17, 1995

Bill McCartney
Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development
110 E. Fayette St.
Pittsfield, IL 62363

RE: Americorps assistance with Adams County, Illinois, 9-1-1 addressing

Dear Bill:

As expressed in our telephone conversation on July 14, 1995, Adams County, Illinois, has finalized Phase I and II work on countywide addressing and is preparing to move on to Phase III. During Phase II work, one of your Americorps crews drove the three townships (commonly known as the Tri-Townships) surrounding Quincy township and marked down distances in thousandths of a mile from intersections to a house or structure. One area of additional work needed for Phase III is to convert these mileage readings into addresses based on the Quincy street numbering system.

Americorps volunteer Mike Miller has done an excellent job in entering addresses for the rural townships in the County. We are requesting Mike's services to help convert the Tri-Township mileages to addresses. We realize that the term of service for many of your volunteers is coming to an end, therefore we would like to have Mike work on this aspect of Phase III addressing until the end of his term if that does not impose an inconvenience on your plans and schedules.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you have additional questions or want to discuss the scope of work on this phase of our project. As always, the Adams County Highway Department, 9-1-1 Department, Klingner & Associates, and PSBA greatly appreciate your organization's offer of assistance.

Very truly yours,

KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Mark Warren, Geographic Information Specialist

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CC: Dick Klusmeyer, Adams County Engineer
Cathy Brogdon, Adams County 9-1-1 Coordinator
Pat Poepping and Tom Hickman, PSBA

KLINGNER
ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Consulting Engineers

□ 613 Broadway, Quincy, Illinois 62301

PSBA

POEPPING, STONE, BACH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

□ 501 Broadway, Quincy, Illinois 62301

Rushville
Times
Rushville
Ill

Spotlight on
Education in
Schuyler County

8-31-94

Recruiting Begins for Area National Service Project

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps National Service Project that the Department will run in the Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area (Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Pike and Schuyler counties) starting in October.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs.

Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend ranging from \$7,660 to \$12,000 and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725. There will be two teams organized in the Two Rivers Area.

One team, the Public Lands and Environment Team will help restore parks and streams damaged by the floods of 1993 and 1994. The Rural Development Team will do surveys and inventories that will result in the development of strategies that will lead to increased income for businesses and farmers in the five county area.

Any citizens 17 years or older from west central Illinois are eligible to apply for the program. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 16. To apply for the program or obtain more information, call Bill McCartney, 217-285-4114 or the toll free national USDA AmeriCorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urged all interested Americans to apply. Espy said AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility and opportunity. It is good for the participants to benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school. It is good for the communities which benefit from their service and good for the country which benefits from renewed civic spirit.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or be willing to work on their GED during their service and college graduates are eligible to apply. There will be nine Public Land and Environment Team members and six Rural Development Team members selected.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Quincy Herald Whig
9/15/94

Parks to get boost from AmeriCorps

■ Several young adults from the National Service Program will work for the Quincy Park District and other area agencies.

By William Mussetter
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

As many as seven young workers hired through President Clinton's AmeriCorps National Service Program could be working for the Quincy Park District as early as mid-October.

And at least two other local agencies, the American Red Cross and West Central Child Care Connection, will benefit from the program.

"This is a real opportunity for the Park District," said Director Stephen Carpenter. "And the obligation to us is minimal. We'll have to train these young people, but we'd have to do that anyway."

The young people will be recruited through the National Civilian Community Corps, an AmeriCorps program. The workers can work 1,700 hours.

"That's almost a full year of employment, with no cost to the district," he said.

AmeriCorps is a national service program designed to employ American citizens 18-24 years of age in jobs that address

Inside

■ Park Board increases district's insurance coverage.

— Page 8B

educational, human services, public safety and environmental concerns. As many as 20,000 young people are expected to be serving by early 1995.

Corps members receive lodging, meals, uniforms, health care and child care in addition to an \$8,000 living allowance for 11 months of service. After completing the program, they will receive an education award of \$4,725, or a cash payment of \$2,362.

While with the Park District, the young people will work in maintenance, landscaping and basic environmental practices.

Because the federal government is doing the hiring, Carpenter couldn't guarantee the workers would come from the local area.

"But applications from local residents will be given priority," he said.

In about two weeks, an AmeriCorps participant will begin work with West Central Child (See AMERICORPS, Page 2A)

Saturday, September 17, 1994

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Local applicants sought for AmeriCorps

By ROSALYNNE HARTY

REGIONAL EDITOR

PITTSFIELD — Bill McCartney is looking for some trailblazers to join the new federal AmeriCorps.

McCartney, a Soil Conservation Service employee working with Two Rivers Resource Economic Development Corp., is trying to recruit service-minded workers to build hiking and bike trails as well as be pioneers in the new Clinton service corps.

"We're trying to accomplish things within the communities that they probably wouldn't be able to accomplish without their help," McCartney said.

The tasks, which range from taking surveys to planting trees, also will provide exposure to careers in agriculture, forestry, horticulture and rural development.

"Here is a chance to get a little scholarship to go to school, and maybe expose people to some careers — find out what they want to do the rest of their life," McCartney said.

"Here is a chance to get a little scholarship to go to school, and maybe expose people to some careers — find out what they want to do the rest of their life."

Bill McCartney
Soil Conservation Service
employee

AmeriCorps applicants must be 17 "up to whatever," McCartney said. Workers will be paid a modest salary, plus health benefits, while earning stipends for higher education or to repay college loans. The program is

loosely modeled on the GI Bill and offers educational benefits in return for service.

The 15 workers in the Two Rivers area will be among 400 AmeriCorps members in Illinois this year. Other groups will work with river-quality monitoring, day-care and other community service projects.

The Two Rivers teams will be assigned to work in Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Pike and Schuyler counties.

Nine AmeriCorps members are being recruited for the Public Lands and Environment team. Those workers, who will earn \$7,600 for 1,700 hours work, will build hike and bike trails, a 50-acre wetland, an environmental education center that will serve six counties, and help stabilize streambanks that were damaged in the Flood of '93.

Some of the workers will work with park districts and not-for-profit groups that deal with environmental issues.

Six AmeriCorps members are

needed for the rural development team, which will be working on three main projects: a small-town business research and retention project, requiring surveys and information-gathering; research into possible alternative uses for farmland that will soon be coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program; and surveying local township and county officials about pending bridge replacements to see if a market can be created for local wood for timber bridges.

These workers will be paid \$12,000 for 1,700 hours.

The application period has been extended to Sept. 23. For more information or to apply, contact McCartney at 285-4114 or by writing: Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Corp., 110 Fayette, Pittsfield, Ill. 62363.

For information on other Illinois AmeriCorps programs call the lieutenant governor's office at 1-800-843-5848. The national information number is 1-800-942-6777.

Running Hearts Clubing 10/95



Fifteen area residents were sworn into the AmeriCorps program Friday in Moorman Park. Corps members will be working in a five-county area in West-Central Illinois. Shown taking the AmeriCorps oath of service in the foreground are

II-W Photo/Mic
Susan Ruble, left, and Chad Denison. Behind them, 1 are corps members Mike Miller, Gary Smothers and Elledge.

AmeriCorps

(Conti

"I'm not going to push the issue with Rick Meehan. It's just not worth it," McCartney said.

Meehan said the district should have met with the union ahead of time and negotiated an agreement outlining what the AmeriCorps members would be doing. He said the problem wasn't about the AmeriCorps program, which the union supports.

The problem, he said, is Car-

penter's refusal to discuss the status of seasonal workers and two empty full-time positions.

The 12 full-time park workers are members of the Machinists Union. Meehan has been trying to organize seasonal workers, and has been locked in a labor dispute with the Park District for several weeks. Meehan said Carpenter refuses to talk to the union.

Carpenter said there's nothing to talk about.

At a Glance

AmeriCorps is part of President Bill Clinton's National Service Program. Corps members must be American citizens, age 17 or older. They receive lodging, meals, uniforms, health care and child care in addition to an \$8,000 living allowance for 11 months of service. After completing the program, they receive an education award of \$4,725, or a cash payment of \$2,362.

We knew at that time how long their part-time or seasonal employment would last.

"If the AmeriCorps program had started in the middle of the summer, there would have been absolutely no part-time or seasonal (workers) leaving. I think that's a very irresponsible statement (by Meehan)," Carpenter said.

"I didn't think (the seasonal workers) fell under the displacement clause in the (AmeriCorps) legislation," said McCartney, who moved the corps members after Meehan threatened to file a grievance with the Park District.

(See AMERICORPS, Page 2A)

AmeriCorps pulled from city parks

Workers assigned to Quincy have been relocated after a dispute between the Park District and a labor representative.

By William Mussetter
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Four AmeriCorps members caught in the middle of a labor dispute between the Quincy Park District and Machinists Lodge 822 have been moved to a job site in Calhoun County.

"It's too bad this has happened. But I can't risk bad publicity for the AmeriCorps program," said William McCartney, program coordinator for Two Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Inc. in Pittsfield.

The employment of several Park District seasonal staffers ended Monday, the same day the AmeriCorps workers reported for work.

Rick Meehan, business representative for Machinists Lodge 822, called the move a layoff.

Meehan said the AmeriCorps program prohibits the displacement of workers by corps members.

Stephen Carpenter, executive director of the Quincy Park District, said nobody had been laid off. "All of our part-time people were budgeted back in January.

"The seasonal worker's employment is terminated when the money runs out. They know that at the time they are hired," Carpenter said. While a few of the better workers are asked to come back the following year, the district typically hires new seasonal workers each year, he said.

"How do you organize people that aren't going to be back next year?" Meehan said the district has 12 full-time workers and 40 seasonal workers. He said the district has had two vacant full-time positions since mid-summer. He believes first seasonal workers, then AmeriCorps members, were being used to avoid hiring two more full-time workers.

"Why don't we add the additional seasonal people, make them full time, so we can better serve the citizens of Quincy for the Park District?" Meehan asked.



STARR MCDANILES AND CHAD DENISON are working with Pittsfield Economic Developer Robin Hendley to gather information on Pittsfield's downtown area. McDaniles is from Pearl and Denison from Pittsfield.

They're parts of Americorps team

By **DAN LONG**

"Hopefully some of the things I'll be learning I can take back to Pearl and use it to stop the decline there," Starr McDaniles said about her working as an Americorps volunteer.

McDaniles and Chad Denison are two members of Americorps, a group of volunteers employed

by the US Department of Agriculture.

Denison, from Pittsfield, and McDaniles are working through the Pittsfield economic development office to collect data on Pittsfield's downtown area.

They'll collect information on businesses, buildings, residences, parking and other factors, according to Robin Hendley, Pittsfield

economic developer.

The information will be used to meet ADA requirements, fulfill Main Street designations for application and other possible projects.

"We need to know what the data says and see what direction it's pointing," Hendley said.

It could point to a certain market area not being met by current businesses or a need for more parking, or it might not, Hendley said.

Denison and McDaniles will work for 9-10 months on the data collection project. They've already undergone some training including CPR and first aid from the Red Cross and team building at WIU, according to Denison.

At the end of the project, both volunteers will receive scholarships toward additional education as well as experience.

"It's a volunteer position with a living expense," McDaniles said.

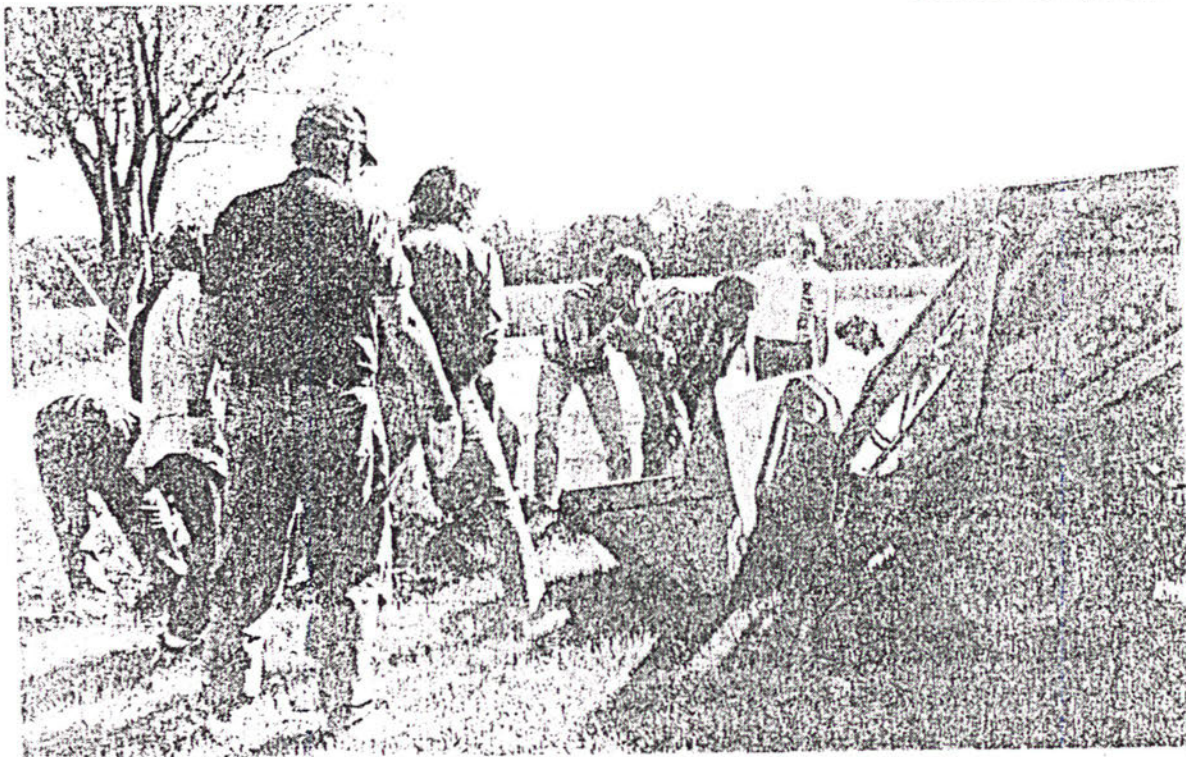
"You earn money and there's a \$4,725 scholarship toward (education)," Denison said. "It's a chance to make contacts and gain experience."

Both volunteers applied for the program through Two Rivers RC&D, the local sponsor of the program.



There were 13 AmeriCorps/USDA Team workers from the Two Rivers Area in Kampsville on Thursday, October 20. They were front row, left to right, Rachel Elledge, Pittsfield; Chad Denison, Pittsfield; Susan Ruble, Griggsville; LeeAn Daniles, Detroit; Bryan Hart, Pleasant Hill; Scott Jones, Kampsville; Larry Warcup, Morgan County; and Bill McCartney, coordinator of Pittsfield. Second row, left to right, Phil Beemer, Pittsfield; Starr McDaniles, Pearl; Bob Gillespy, Springfield; Gary Smothers, Pittsfield; Jamie Totsch, Clayton, IL; and Joe Daniels, Pleasant Hill.

Calhoun News Photo



Workers assisted in dismantling a sidewalk in the Village of Kampsville.

Calhoun News Photo

USDA AmeriCorps Projects Announced For Local Area

The USDA Soil Conservation Service and Two Rivers Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. announced the kickoff of the local USDA AmeriCorps projects recently. Fifteen USDA

research, retention and revitalization program. Their second goal will identify and promote alternative uses of land which will be released from Conservation Reserve Program

from streams and repair damaged streambanks.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new service program he likens to a domestic Peace Corps. The difference is

...e holiday tinsel and g... are packed away.

first gift came from AmeriCorps service program workers. Teams of workers offered to help the city and Uptown Quincy, Inc. with public-works projects.

City assistance from AmeriCorps involved clearing trees and brush from city right-of-way areas, mostly along the riverfront, and re-laying bricks for alleys in the East End Historic District.

AmeriCorps workers approached Uptown Quincy, Inc. and offered to assist with rehabilitation and revitalization projects. UQI notified members of the offer and asked for requests involving improvements to public property of for not-for-profit organizations.

The Quincy YWCA was one of several UQI members quick to respond.

During the past few weeks, anytime weather has prohibited outdoor work, the AmeriCorps teams have grabbed their paint brushes and moved inside the YWCA at 421 Jersey. Donna Mayenzet, YWCA president, has been grateful for the AmeriCorps



workers' help in the central business district.

Thanks to Bill McCartney, coordinator of the regional AmeriCorps program, and to the workers who have made a difference project by project in the central business district.

Our second Christmas gift -- \$4 million worth -- was delivered by seven local banks and the city on December 20. They announced the enhancement of the Central Business District Commercial Revolving Loan Fund (CBD-RLF).

The CBD-RLF program was established in the early 1980s. It was devised to stimulate the rehabilitation of commercial structures in the central business district. Although utilized by some, many felt the limitations exceeded the benefits and potential opportunities for economic growth and development in the CBD were being lost.

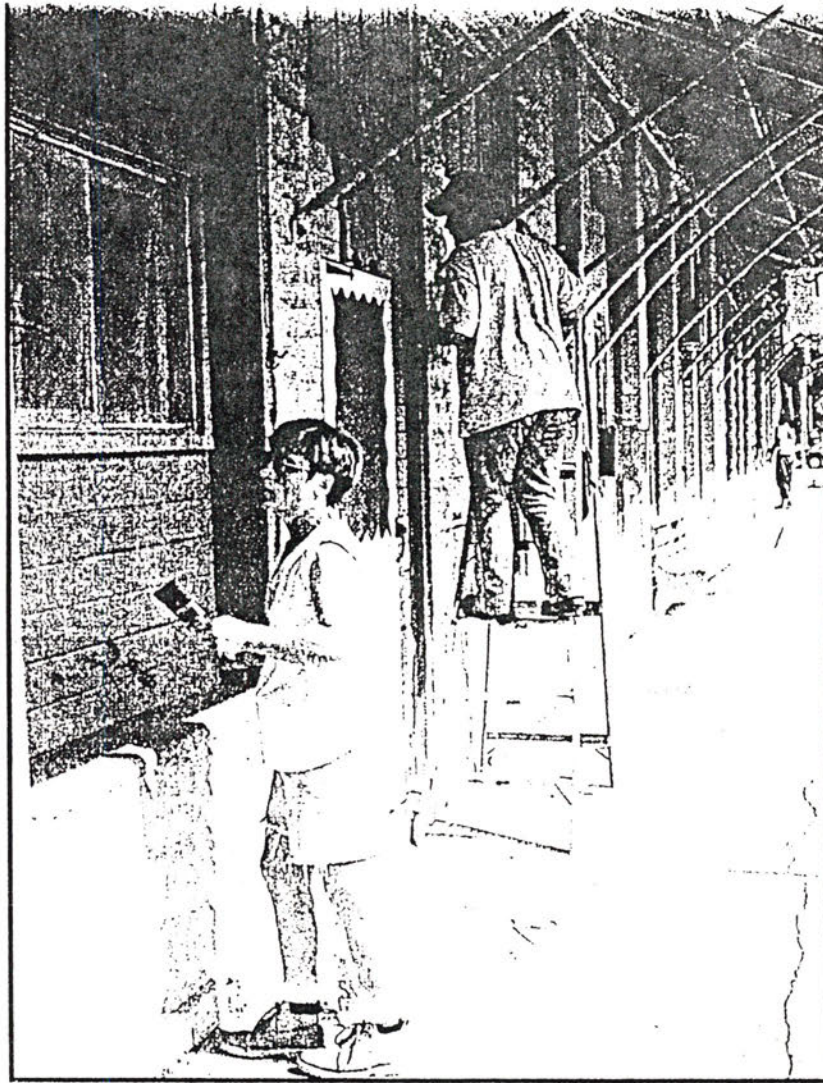
Initial conversations between representatives of the city, the banks, Great River Economic Development Foundation and Uptown Quincy, Inc. focused on the \$100,000 limit placed on individual loan applications and the inability to use funds for new construction.

As a result of those conversations, the following revisions have been made to enhance the effectiveness and marketability of the program:

- increasing the revolving loan fund to a minimum of \$4 million;
- increasing the loan limit to 15 percent of pool funds available;
- allowing new construction projects to be eligible;
- allowing property acquisition in conjunction with a building project to be eligible.

The public-private partnership required the commitment of \$500,000 from the City of Quincy as well as a minimum of \$500,000 from each of the participating banks:

Boatmen's Bank of Quincy
First Bank FSB
First Bankers Trust Company
First Federal Bank FSB
Mercantile Trust and Savings Bank
State Street Bank and Trust Company



Gary Haddock/Pike Press

Susie Ruble and Joe Daniels helped with the painting last Tuesday in a volunteer effort to improve Nebo's main business district.

Nebo is sprucing up

By GARY HADDOCK

Nebo is getting a face lift along the west side of Union, the town's main business street, with new paint jobs along the entire block.

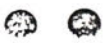
Nebo Mayor Kenny Hubbard said he was happy to see the change in town. "So many small towns like ours are just hanging on, barely surviving," Hubbard said. "It's awful easy for a town to go downhill."

Hubbard said the painting was sponsored by Gary Harpole II, who recently opened Heartland Outfitters, a deer hunting resort south of Nebo. "He brought the paint and materials," Hubbard said.

But volunteers did the work. Working last Tuesday were Susie Ruble, Joe Daniels, LeeAnn McDaniles, Hubbard and Bud Smith. Hubbard said Charlie Moore of Pittsfield donated the paint sprayer and Donnie Hodson of Barry donated a bucket truck.

Harpole said he was donating the paint to Nebo in return for all their support of Heartland Outfitters.

Pam Robinson of Pam's Place restaurant said she thought it helps the town. "We had the window woodwork and bench in front painted, but left the brick as it was," she said.

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